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For Immediate Release

21ST ANNUAL NIKE CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

The best university teams in Canada invade Concordia's Loyola Campus this weekend to participate in the 21st Annual Concordia Nike Classic. Four of the teams advanced to the 1991-92 Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union National Championships last March and Concordia's head coach feels this year's draw is the strongest in a decade.

"We have always tried to provide Montreal basketball fans with the very best in women's basketball," Hickey explained. "This isn't a tournament designed for Concordia to win, but rather to expose Concordia and other participants to the best possible competition.

With the recent development shown by Waterloo, Saint Mary's and ourselves, every game should be a battle. Winnipeg and Laurentian (finalists in the last three Classics) are the class of the field, but they are in for some tough games."

The tourney opens Friday at 2:00 pm with the McGill-Saint Mary's game. McGill, led by standout Vicki Tessier, captured the Dalhousie Subway invitational tournament last weekend. Tessier was selected M.V.P. while teammates Jane Ross and Martina van der Vlist were named to the all-star team.

Friday's second game features the Winnipeg Wesmen against the Queen's Golden Gaels. Winnipeg finished second in the CIAU Nationals last season and are led by pre-season All-Canadian guard Sandra Carroll. Queen's, who lost to McGill last week in the Dalhousie Tournament, has a veteran squad featuring one of the country's top scorers in Vicki Wilson.

Laurentian University and Waterloo will square off at 6:00 pm. The Veeps, who have seven Classic championship titles to their credit, are led by national team members Sue Stewart, Nana Robinson, Dianne Norman and Tracey Hayman. The Waterloo Athenas, who registered two one-point wins over the Stingers last year, are coached by former Stinger Denise Dignard. Denise was a starter and QSSF all-star in the 1984-85 season as she led the Stingers to their last Quebec championship and a fourth place finish in the CIAU Nationals.

Concordia hosts the Dalhousie Tigers in Friday's final. The Tigers are a veteran team featuring league all-stars Angie McLeod and Jennifer Offman. The Stingers enter the tournament with a 3-3 record and renewed optimism. With all five starters returning from last year, and an impressive rookie squad, the Stingers will be in the thick of the battle for the QSSF championship. League all-stars Tanya Guitman and Sharon Sandy are joined by forwards Lori Lozo, Christine De Jordy, Julie Kinsella, and Linda Benjamin to give Concordia a veteran nucleus. CCAA All-Canadian Isabelle Bernier, Patricia Demers and Barbara Malette-Requessens, graduates of the powerful Ahuntsic program, Terri Viglione (Vanier), Caroline Jones (Dawson) and Janice Marshall are all first-year players who will play key roles in Concordia's playoff drive.

The four winners will play semi-finals at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm Saturday with the consolation semi-finals slated for 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm. The consolation championship will take place at 11:00 am Sunday, followed by the third-place game at 1:00 pm and the championship match at 3:00 pm. The awards ceremony will be held immediately following the championship game.